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AIRGRAM

A 47

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TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCSO FOR POLAD; Amembassies TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR,
MANAGUA, SAN JOSE

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report

REF :

1. This is the first of a planned series of airgrams which will report on a weekly basis the internal security situation in Guatemala. They will replace the "Sitrep" telegrams. Individual incidents of sufficient importance to warrant telegraphic transmission will continue to be cabled. The monthly summary will be continued.

2. The week produced no incidents of particular importance but the general level of violence and lawlessness was fairly high. There were a number of incidents which, while they could have political overtones, may well have been the work of common criminals. The guerrillas appeared to still be lying low, perhaps lacking the capability to do much more for the present, and the security forces had a quiet week although some arrests were made and interrogations yielded some more intelligence about the guerrillas.

3. Incidents during the week, in chronological order, were:

(a) The press reported that Carlos Quintana was kidnapped from his capital home July 12 by a group of men in a jeep [REDACTED]

(b) Three assassinated bodies were found July 13. Two, each with .45 cal. wounds, were found in San Agustín Acasaguastlán, in the Department of El Progreso, and the third, with 15 bullet wounds, in the United Nations Park, Amatitlán, Department of Guatemala. No political motive is known.

(c) The finca Camelia, near Rio Bravo in the Department of Suchitepéquez was raided July 14 by eight men armed with sub-machineguns and wearing the uniform of Policia Militar Ambulante (PMA). They stole Q90 in cash, Q200 in bonds, a shotgun, a rifle and a pistol and fled in the Finca's Land Rover, which they abandoned 6 kilometers away. The Office

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of Public Relations of the Army denies any knowledge of the incident and it is not known if the group was a PMA unit or not.

(d) The zone 3 house of Abel Antonio García was hit by 6 bullets fired from a passing car on the night of July 15. Sr. García says he has been receiving death threats for about a year, but he doesn't know why. No more is known.

(e) Three men were captured by the police after they shot and wounded a bus driver in San José, Department of Escuintla, July 16. Their motives are not yet known.

(f) Masked men, claiming to belong to the MR-13, stole over Q7,000 from Eureka Bus Company at gun point July 16. It is not known if they were really guerrillas or common criminals.

(g) Juan REYES Valenzuela, worker for bus line La Audepa was kidnapped from his work at a bus terminal July 17 by men on motorcycles, according to an account given to the press by his wife. It is not known if political motives were involved.

(h) The house of the Mayor of Zacapa was machinegunned July 17. No one was hurt and material damage was slight.

(i) The administrator of the market in Retalhuleu, Regino Quevedo, was shot to death from a car on the road to Champerico July 18. The press reported the authorities presumed the motive to be political.

(j) Press reports Orlando Antonic CHAVEZ Castillo arrested in the capital July 18 for possession of subversive propaganda.

(k) Three bodies were found in the Department of Chiquimula on or about July 19. They had all been wounded in a number of places. Their death could have political connotations or could simply be the act of bands of what amounts to highwaymen who are reported to be operating in the area.

(l) A bomb exploded July 20 in zone 7 of the capital completely destroying a car and breaking a number of windows in the house of David MONTERROSO Ortiz, owner of the car. Monterroso claims to be apolitical and no motive for the bombing is known.

(m) A policeman, guarding the television station channel 3 was shot and killed July 20 by a group of armed men. Press reports are conflicting as to whether it was a simple assassination or whether the assassins were trying to enter the station.

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